

PRESS RELEASE

kunst|verein mistelbach and the blau-gelbe viertelsgalerie

present

Animale e persona. Art Brut from the Hannah Rieger Collection

29 May to 27 June 2021

Soft opening: 29 May, 2 pm to 6 pm

Barockschlössl Mistelbach

Museumsgasse 4

A-2130 Mistelbach

kunst|verein mistelbach presents its first exhibition of Art Brut, under the title “Animale e persona. Art Brut from the Hannah Rieger Collection”. The exhibition in the “Barockschlössl” (a small Baroque estate built around 1727), near the main square in Mistelbach, the district’s capital, is also intended to inspire enthusiasm for Art Brut. Hannah Rieger lives in the Weinviertel district and in Vienna, and has been collecting Art Brut since 1991. With around 500 artworks, her collection is one of Austria’s major private collections specialising in Art Brut. The theme of the exhibition, “Animals and people”, guided the selection of works, and provides a focused perspective for exploring their artistic style and forms of expression. The exhibition consists of 95 artworks featuring animals and people, which were created by 40 artists from 16 countries. Forty-five of these are by artists from Gugging: 17 male artists and the female artist Laila Bachtiar.

In 1981, the psychiatrist Leo Navratil founded the House of Artists, as a men’s department, in an empty pavilion in the grounds of the clinic at Maria Gugging. In 2007 this artists’ community was separated from the psychiatric hospital and transformed into a social welfare institution. Psychiatrist and artist Johann Feilacher, Leo Navratil’s successor, soon developed Gugging further, and today it is a globally unique Art Brut centre, with art production facilities (House of Artists and studio), a gallery, and a museum which opened in 2006 – 73 kilometres from the “Barockschlössl” in Mistelbach.

The Austrian Art Brut model Gugging is a focus of Hannah Rieger’s collection, while the rest are selected works representing international Art Brut.

The exhibition is curated by Mariana Ionita and Franz J. Schwelle. The curators took their inspiration for the theme of this exhibition from the 1995 work “Animale e persona” by Giordano Gelli (1928 to 2011). Giordano Gelli is among the most important artists to have worked at La Tinaia, an institution which was founded in 1964 in Florence, Italy. More specifically, he worked at the Centro di Attività Espressive La Tinaia in the Vincenzo Chiarugi neuropsychiatric clinic. The psychiatrist Franco Mori initiated the idea of creating an artistic outlet for patients. Due to improved pharmacological treatments, they required less inpatient care and he wanted to respond to their new situation.

Like Gugging, La Tinaia was accepted by Jean Dubuffet, who originally defined and named the Art Brut movement, as a place producing creative work which corresponded with his concept of Art Brut. The French artist and wine merchant Jean Dubuffet (1901–1985) coined the term

“Art Brut” after the Second World War, to describe this raw and authentic art which since 1972 has become known in English as “Outsider Art”. The creators of Art Brut are self-taught artists. Art Brut is not constrained by the expectations of the mainstream cultural and art world, nor by academic competition. This is what differentiates the genre from academically recognised “high art”, which is influenced by contemporary tastes and trends, and the associated global discourse, as taught in university art courses. Art Brut must always be understood in terms of its extreme individuality. Each artist is driven by an inner creative urge, a mission, indeed often an obsession, and has their own form and style. The focus in Art Brut is on the quality of artistic expression, rather than on the social status of the artists, or their mental, physical or intellectual state.

The 13 female artists and 27 male artists included in the exhibition:

Perihan Arpacilar (Turkey/Germany), Josef Bachler (Austria), Laila Bachtiar (Austria), Pearl Blauvelt (USA), Ida Buchmann (Switzerland), Raimundo Camilo (Brazil), Aloïse Corbaz (Switzerland), Anton Dobay (Germany/Austria), Leonhard Fink (Austria), Alois Fischbach (Austria), Johann Fischer (Austria), Franz Gableck (Austria), Giordano Gelli (Italy), Madge Gill (United Kingdom), Martha Grunenwaldt (Belgium), Guo Fengyi (China), Johann Hauser (Austria), Margarethe Held (Germany), Josef Hofer (Austria), Aurel Iselstöger (Croatia/Austria), Franz Kernbeis (Austria), Fritz Koller (Austria), Davood Koochaki (Iran), Johann Korec (Austria), Pradeep Kumar (India), Alexis Lippstreu (France/Belgium), Michel Nedjar (France), Masao Obata (Japan), Misleidys Castillo Pedroso (Cuba), Marilena Pelosi (Brazil/France), Karl Reisenbauer (Austria), Johann Scheiböck (Austria), Arnold Schmidt (Austria), Mary T. Smith (USA), Günther Schützenhöfer (Austria), Takuya Tamura (Japan), Oswald Tschirtner (Austria), Karl Vondal (Austria), Agatha Wojciechowsky (Germany), Carlo Zinelli (Italy).

Exhibition:

Barockschlössl Mistelbach
Museumsgasse 4
A-2130 Mistelbach

Opening hours: 29 May to 27 June 2021,
Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays, 2 pm – 6 pm
and by arrangement: kunstvereinmistelbach@speed.de
Online exhibition catalogue: www.livinginartbrut.com (Projects/Publications),
www.kunstverein-mistelbach.at

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